



WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1938.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my thirty-seventh Annual Report on the Health of your District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	3,447
Population Census 1921	..	..	..	..	..	9,102
" " 1931	..	..	..	..	..	11,389
Estimated Population 1938 (mid-year)	..	..	..	..	..	12,690
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1938	..	..	..	..	..	3,974
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	£57,630
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	£218

Social Conditions.

The staple industries are the manufacture of Hosiery and of Boots & Shoes.

Vital Statistics.

Births, legitimate	M. 115	F. 106	Total	221
" illegitimate	M. <u>6</u>	F. <u>3</u>	Total	<u>9</u>
Totals:-	<u>121</u>	<u>109</u>		<u>230</u>
Birth-rate	..	..	..	18.1
Birth-rate for England & Wales	..	..	..	15.1
Still-births 4 (all legitimate)	..	..	..
Deaths: Males 69.	Females 68.	Total		137
Crude Death-rate	..	..	..	10.7
Comparative Death-rate (allowing for age and sex distribution)	..	..	..	11.0
Death-rate for England & Wales	..	..	..	11.6

The comparative figure should be used in comparing the death-rate with that of other Districts or of England and Wales.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - 12 (2 illegitimate)

Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 births	..	..	52
Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales	..	..	53

<u>Causes of Death.</u>					<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
<u>All Causes.</u>					<u>69</u>	<u>68</u>
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	2	3
Cerebro-spinal fever	..	..	..	..	1	-
Respiratory tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	6	2
Other tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	2	1
Cancer	..	..	..	..	8	10
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	1	1
Cerebral haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	2	5
Heart disease	..	..	..	..	15	17
Aneurysm	..	..	..	..	-	1
Other circulatory diseases	..	..	..	..	1	1
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	3	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	5	4
Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	..	-	1
Peptic ulcer	..	..	..	..	2	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	-	-
Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	1	-
Digestive diseases	..	..	..	..	1	1
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	2	1
Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	..	-	-
Other puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	-	-
Congenital causes	..	..	..	..	3	7
Senility	..	..	..	..	2	1
Suicide	..	..	..	..	-	1
Other violence	..	..	..	..	3	2
Other defined causes	..	..	..	..	9	7
Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	..	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The particulars furnished in previous reports are still applicable.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

The Medical Officer of Health has acted for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts, in which this District is included, for 37 years. Having reached the age of 70 he has now been superannuated. He is succeeded by Dr. A. W. S. Thompson, Assistant County Medical Officer.

The Sanitary Inspector is a whole time Officer.

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:-

The Leicester Corporation's mains convey an ample supply of wholesome water throughout the whole urban area, excepting part of East Wigston comprising 9 dwelling houses and 3 farms. Three houses in Long Street have an unsatisfactory well supply regarding which an Informal Notice has been served. No acute shortage has been experienced. Extensions of mains are keeping pace with building development, some 373 yards of new mains having been laid during the year. 43 houses have had a piped supply laid on internally in lieu of stand-pipes in the yards.

Drainage & Sewerage:-

560 yards of 9 inch sewer have been laid during the year. Improvements and extensions, including improvements at the outfall works, are now under consideration.

There are 22 cesspools in the District. These are in outlying places where public sewers are not available.

Closet Accommodation:-

Approximate number in District	(1) Privies	Nil
	(2) Pail Closets	24
	(3) Water Closets	4,587

The area is now free from ash-pits.

Public Cleansing:-

Refuse is collected weekly by direct labour under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Two covered motor-vehicles are used alternately, one being loaded while the other is tipping. Disposal is by Controlled Tipping on land owned by the Local Authority. Night soil is removed weekly and tipped on land the pails being systematically cleansed.

Cesspools are emptied fortnightly and the contents are discharged into sewers.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

The Sanitary Inspector reports as follows:-

Total No. of complaints received during the year	..	85
" " " premises visited	.. .. ..	567
" " " defects or nuisances discovered	.. ..	248

Total No. of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	2,977
" " " notices served - Informal	245.	Statutory	36.			281
" " " " complied with - "	225.	"	16.			241
" " " summonses issued	..	..	..	..		Nil

An exhaustive report on the details of all this work has been presented by the Sanitary Inspector.

Smoke Abatement:-

The District has some 25 factory chimneys in use. 52 observations lasting from 30 to 60 minutes were made and informal action was necessary in 16 instances. Visits being well received, no statutory action was called for. Annoyance from open burning of trade refuse has been corrected by offering disposal facilities. A number of firms have now installed incinerators.

Shops:-

Eighty per cent of the shops in the District are occupied as dwelling houses, no outside assistance being employed. Four sanitary defects were found and duly rectified.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations:-

There are no common Lodging Houses or houses let in lodgings and there are no underground rooms used for sleeping. There are now no Offensive-Trades and there are no Canal Boats. Nine inspections involving three vans are recorded, the conditions being found satisfactory.

Camping Sites:-

None in the District. There are however two recognised fair grounds used by travelling showmen. The water is laid on and portable sanitary conveniences are provided. Provision is also made for refuse collection.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs:-

Six Council houses and eleven other dwelling houses were disinfested, the methods usually employed being the best available short of Hydrocyanic Acid. Walls are stripped and skirting boards etc. removed, followed by spraying with Taldecide and

fumigation with Sulphur dioxide at nine day intervals. Cyanide fumigation by a firm of Contractors is however employed wherever practicable.

In six instances disinfecting of belongings was found necessary during removal of tenants to Council Houses. Cyanide fumigation by a firm of Contractors was carried out in transit.

Tenants of Council Houses are encouraged to report infestation should such arise. Inside redecoration is done by direct labour, the use of wall paper being discontinued for some time.

Schools:-

The Public Elementary and Intermediate Schools are well maintained and are all provided with the public water supply. At South Wigston suitable sanitary conveniences should be provided in lieu of trough-closets. Bell Street Infants' School was disinfected in April on account of Scarlet Fever.

Swimming Baths and Pools:-

The open air swimming bath in which contaminated canal water was used has been closed. There are now no facilities in the District and I sincerely hope that the Council in conjunction with other interested bodies will consider the advisability of making adequate provision.

H O U S I N G.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:-

By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	44
By other bodies or persons	..	..	..	..	..	123

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	362
Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. 622
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.. 94
Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. 252
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. .. .. 36
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	186

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	59
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners	Nil
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(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	Nil
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B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-

(a) By Owners	Nil
-----------------------	-----

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	Nil
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C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
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NOTE:- 1 (3) above. Of 36 unfit houses, 31 were dealt with in Clearance Areas following a Ministry of Health Inquiry, the remaining 5 being dealt with by Demolition Orders.

4. Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding.

(a) i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	4
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ii. Number of families dwelling therein	4
---	---

iii. Number of persons dwelling therein	36
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(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
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(c) i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	18
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ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases	164
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(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
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On 31st December, 1937, the Register showed 20 cases of overcrowding and two further cases have since been notified. The Council has provided 14 houses for abatement of overcrowding. In them 14 families comprising 134 persons have been rehoused. Four families comprising 37 persons have found other accommodation. At the end of 1938 four families, 36 persons, had yet to be dealt with.

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk:-

<u>Retailers:</u> (other than cowkeepers).	No. on Register	66
	No. of inspections of premises ..	92
	No. of contraventions found	11
	No. of contraventions remedied ..	9
<u>Producers:</u> (including those who retail milk).	No. on Register	18
	No. of inspections made	52
	No. of contraventions - <u>Cleansing</u>	
	Found	8
	Remedied	7
	Ditto	<u>Structural Alterations</u>
	Found	8
	Remedied	7
	Ditto	<u>Utensils</u>
	Found	2
	Remedied	2

General:-

During the year 102 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination at the County Council's Laboratory. The results were:- Pasteurised milk, 3 samples up to standard. 102 ordinary milk samples were classified as follows:- Grade I 79, II 18, III 5 and IV nil. Samples falling into Grade II and under are followed up by visits to producers, repeat samples being taken of all unsatisfactory supplies until rectified. When such samples are produced outside the District the Authority concerned is notified.

Designated licences granted by the Council:- 1 Pasteurised producer, 1 Supplementary Pasteurised producer, 2 Tuberculin Tested supplementary and 2 Accredited supplementary.

Meat and other Foods:-

No. of public abattoirs in District

Private Slaughter Houses:-

In January 1938

In December 1938

No. registered	9	9
No. licenced	1	1
No. of inspections of premises (other than at times of slaughter)		48
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter		1,104
No. of Knacker yards		1
No. of visits to Knacker yards		36

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total Weight in lbs.
Number killed (if known)	732	Nil	82	3,450	2,080	
Number inspected	Approximately 80%					
All Diseases except <u>Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	1	-	105 lbs.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	41	-	-	4	-	686 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	5.6 7	-	-	0.18 14	-	
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	-	-	-	-	1,440
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	-	-	-	87	1,437
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.6 2	-	-	-	5.2 4.1	

Meat Stalls:-

No. of inspections 34

Meat Shops, Meat Stores etc.:-

No. of inspections 89

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or
prepared for sale:-

No. of inspections 48

State any action taken:-

Informal action	Cleansing	..	..	..	..	11
Ditto	Defective Floors			..	..	1
Ditto	Drainage	..	..	..	..	4
Ditto	Refuse	..	..	..	..	17

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The notified cases of Infectious Disease were as follows:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Cases notified.</u>	<u>Removed to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet fever	39	33	-
Diphtheria	33	33	5
Erysipelas	1	1	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	2	1

PROTECTION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Prevalence of Diphtheria in South Wigston during the first quarter of the year led to our offering protective treatment for public elementary school children and pre-school children. After a well attended meeting of parents at which the reason for our offer was explained Immunisation was commenced on 31st March, the method employed being three intramuscular injections of Toxoid Antitoxin floccules (T.A.F.) at fortnightly intervals.

There were 720 acceptances, 563 (about 58%) school children and 157 pre-school. 708 children received the full course while 7 received two injections and 5 received one injection.

The course for each child being voluntary it was undertaken only on the written request of a parent or guardian. The actual work was carried out by two of the County Council's Medical Officers, Drs. A. A. Lisney and A. W. S. Thompson, after consultation between the County and District Medical Officers of Health and approval by the District Council. Mileage and cost of material were assessed at the rate 3/6d per case and this was paid by the District Council in respect of 587 Wigston children, 133 who resided in other Districts being charged to the appropriate Councils.

The completion of the course was accompanied by a cessation of prevalence and no case has been recorded in an immunised child.

One case of OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM came under observation. The patient was treated at home and recovered with vision unimpaired.

The TUBERCULOSIS cases and deaths are classified as follows:-

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Other forms.		Respiratory.		Other forms.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 and under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 " " 10 "	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 " " 15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 " " 20 "	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
20 " " 25 "	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
25 " " 35 "	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
35 " " 45 "	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
45 " " 55 "	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 " " 65 "	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals:-	12	3	1	1	6	2	2	1

Four of the deaths occurred in hospitals or sanatoria.

At the County Council's Laboratory the following examinations were made during the year:-

Sputa for tubercle bacilli	..	60
Urine for tubercle bacilli	..	9
Urine (general & bacteriological		14
Swabs for diphtheria	.. ..	74
Milk examinations	.. ..	117
Total:-		<u>274</u>

Factories, Workshops & Workplaces:-

1. Inspections:-

Factories with mechanical power	No. of inspections ..	62
	No. of written notices	12
Factories without mechanical power	No. of inspections ..	36
	No. of written notices	9
Other premises	No. of inspections ..	Nil
	No. of written notices	Nil
Total:-		Inspections 98 Written Notices 21

2. Defects:-

				<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Want of cleanliness	..	..	..	8	8
Overcrowding	..	..	..	2	2
Inadequate ventilation	..	..	..	2	2
Ineffective drainage of floors			..	2	1
Sanitary accommodation insufficient				3	2
Do: unsuitable or defective				4	4
Do: not separate for sexes				-	-
Other offences	..	..	..	-	-
Total:-				21	19

It was not found necessary to refer any matter to H.M.
Inspector.

3. No cases of Outwork on Unwholesome Premises came under
observation.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. O'CONNOR, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

(until 1st April 1939.)

Kirby Muxloe,

Leicester.

31st May, 1939.

APPENDIX.

RAINFALL IN 1938.

At Wigston U.D.C. Sewage Farm, Countesthorpe Road:
In the County of Leicester.

Rain Gauge	(Diameter of Funnel 8 Inches.
	(Height of Top above Ground 9 Inches.
	(Height of Ground above Sea-Level .. 256.85 feet

Month	Total Depth in Inches	Greatest Fall in 24 hours		Number of Days with	
		Inches	Date	.01 ins. or more	.04 ins. or more
JAN.	2.68	.50	12th	25	13
FEB.	1.00	.26	27th	17	8
MAR.	.29	.14	27th	9	3
APRIL	.09	.03	3rd	5	Nil
MAY	1.42	.31	28th	13	7
JUNE	1.24	.35	2nd	13	6
JULY	2.65	.48	15th	20	16
AUG.	3.49	1.33	5th	15	9
SEPT.	2.34	1.03	19th	15	9
OCT.	2.20	.59	4th	18	11
NOV.	2.17	.35	21st	20	13
DEC.	2.61	.30	5th	27	19
TOTAL	22.18			197	114

G. F. STACEY,
Surveyor.

Introductory.	...	...	...	...	1
Bacteriological Examinations	...	...	...	...	9, 13
Births	...	...	...	...	2
Blind Welfare	...	...	...	...	20
Canal Boats Acts	...	...	...	...	7
Chemical Work	...	...	...	...	11
Clinics: Attendances at M. & C.V.	...	...	...	...	19
Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	6
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	7
Comparative Vital Statistics Since 1876	...	...	...	...	3
Compensation Claims and Medical Examinations	...	...	...	...	15
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	8
Death Rates	...	...	...	...	2
Disinfection and Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	13
Drainage	...	...	...	...	6
Entertainment Places	...	...	...	...	7
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	7
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act	...	...	...	...	11
Food Condemned	...	...	...	...	10
Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act 1928	...	...	...	...	10
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	10
Houses Let-in-Lodgings	...	...	...	...	7
Housing	...	...	...	...	8
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	2
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	13
" " Hospital	...	...	...	...	15
" " Notifications during 1939	...	...	...	...	14
Inquests	...	...	...	...	3
Laboratory Work	...	...	...	...	13
Maternity and Child Welfare	...	...	...	...	19
" " Ante-Natal Scheme	...	...	...	...	19
" " Attendances at Clinics	...	...	...	...	19
" " Children's Act	...	...	...	...	19
" " Dental Treatment	...	...	...	...	19
" " Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	...	19
" " Notifications of Births	...	...	...	...	20
" " Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	20
" " Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	20
" " Sunlight Treatment	...	...	...	...	20
" " Schools for Mothers	...	...	...	...	20
" " Work of Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	19
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	9
Meat Purveyors	...	...	...	...	9
Merchandise Marks Act	...	...	...	...	11
Milk Supply	...	...	...	...	8, 9
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	6
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	7
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	8
Pharmacy and Poisons Act	...	...	...	...	7
Public Assistance	...	...	...	...	3
Rag Flock Act	...	...	...	...	7
Rats and Mize	...	...	...	...	7
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	6
Registrar General's List of Causes of Death	...	...	...	...	4
Rivers and Streams	...	...	...	...	6
Sanitary Inspection of the Area	...	...	...	...	6
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	6
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	6
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	7
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	9
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	6
Tuberculosis: After Care	...	...	...	...	16
" Artificial Pneumothorax	...	...	...	...	15
" Pemberton Hospital	...	...	...	...	15
" Summary of Notifications	...	...	...	...	16
" Sunlight Treatment	...	...	...	...	18
" Work of Dispensary	...	...	...	...	17
Uncertified Deaths	...	...	...	...	3
Vaccinations	...	...	...	...	13
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	...	18
Vital Statistics	...	...	...	...	2
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	6, 13

